

Wesley Bruer resigns as state geologist

Sacramento--State Geologist Wesley G. Bruer has resigned as chief of the Division of Mines and Geology, effective Oct. 30.

Bruer joined the Department of Conservation as program development officer in January 1969. He was appointed acting state geologist in December 1969 and was given a permanent assignment three years ago.

Bruer was born in Oregon, where he was graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1949.

Before entering state service, he was a geologist for a cement company in Oregon, for a large oil company in Texas and California, and was a consulting geologist in Bakersfield.

He is a former president of the San Joaquin Geological Society and was one of the leaders in drafting and securing passage of the California Geologist Act.



Wesley G. Bruer

He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship this year. He has also served as first vice president of the American Institute of Professional Geologists.

Bruer will continue his career in private industry.

"Wes Bruer contributed significantly to the public programs of the Division of Mines and Geology," said Director Ray Hunter in accepting the resignation. "The public has been well-served under Wes' guidance."

James E. Slosson, chief deputy state geologist, will serve as acting state geologist until a permanent successor to Bruer is named.

Pay increase for Ecology Corps

Sacramento--Pay for the California Ecology Corps goes up \$25 per month effective Nov. 1--meaning corpsmen will see the increase in checks received at the end of the month.

The increase, proposed months ago by Director Ray B. Hunter, was finally authorized in Sacramento on Oct. 16. "I am pleased that I have received approval of this request," said Hunter. "I know corpsmen will be glad to see the extra bucks in their pay--they deserve this increase."

Mail basket

Hunter's mail basket has been bulging in recent days with letters from corpsmen at Calaveras and Palo Seco Ecology Centers demanding that the director approve the pay raise. Replies noted that Hunter enthusiastically supported the raise and had submitted the issue to the director of the State Department of Finance.

Corpsmen at Tehama Ecology Center also petitioned Hunter for the raise.

Base pay for corpsmen will be \$125. Assistant leaders will be paid \$150 and leaders will get \$175.

Assistant Deputy State Forester Joe E. Griggs, corps administrator, said that the raise, in addition to improving corpsmen morale, will permit him to complete an agreement which will result in recruitment of more military veterans as corpsmen.

Vocational program

A vocational education coordinator-consultant will be named shortly to design a vocational training program for the corps.



Concern for ecology - Richard Burnett (left) and Dan Anderson demonstrated their concern for the ecology in a unique campfire program of their design given at Big Sur State Park. Burnett and Anderson are part of the Molera spike camp. A story about their presentation is on page 3. A story about the spike camp at Big Sur is on page 5.

The Firebirds

State receives S-2 tankers

San Diego--The first contingent of S-2 Firebird airtankers turned over to the Department of Conservation by the Navy were accepted by Gov. Ronald Reagan October 25 in ceremonies here at North Island Naval Air Station.

Secretary of the Navy John Warner had authorized the transfer earlier as part of the Navy's continuing program of assistance to civilian agencies.

Six of the aircraft were accepted by Ray B. Hunter, director of the Department of Conservation, at Corpus Christi October 10. At that ceremony, Captain J. H. Winn, commander of Training Air Wing Four at the Texas air station presented the aircraft to Hunter.

It is expected that an additional 44 Firebirds will be received and modified as airtankers. Replacement engines will also be provided by the Navy.

Pilliken reseeding

Contract awarded

Sacramento--Lawton Crop Dusters of Kerman, Fresno county, was the low bidder on an emergency revegetation seeding contract for the Pilliken fire.

Under the contract, some 34,000 pounds of rye-grass seed will be applied to 5,382 acres of critical watershed within the burned area in an attempt to minimize the erosion potential and denuded land.

Hunter on One....

This month Ray Hunter discusses Proposition 1 - the tax limitation amendment - and its effect upon the Department of Conservation if it receives the approval of the electorate November 6. The director's message is on page 2.

Cooperating with the Division of Forestry in the project are the El Dorado National Forest, American Forest Products Corporation, Michigan-California Lumber Company, Pacific Gas and Electric, and Anthony Stadlman.

From the director.....

There is considerable discussion in the public print on the impact of the proposed tax limitation amendment (Proposition 1) on governmental programs. Our department is, of course, supported by tax generated general and special funds and would be subject to the provisions of the amendment.

I am sure we all recognize that the cost of our fire protection, energy regulation, seismic safety and other programs contribute to the nearly 45 cents in taxes we pay out of every dollar we earn. These taxes, as you can see, require almost half of our workday to support the several layers of government.

On questions directly related to the future of departmental programs, perhaps I can answer two in the space I have available.

Question: If Proposition 1 limits revenue, then doesn't it really also limit the services the department can provide?

Answer: The level of service we provide - whether that be fighting wildland fires or gathering data about the state's energy supplies - will not be lowered but probably will continue to grow. All of state government, however, will grow at a slower rate than before. Somewhere around 2% of the state budget growth can be devoted to new or increased programs. The character of our programs is such that we can, as we have for S-2 funding, compete effectively for growth funds.

Question: If Proposition 1 passes, what about salary increases we will need just to cover any increase in the cost of living?

Answer: State revenue will be tied to population increases, economic growth, and inflation. As these grow, so will the state's income grow. The plan limits the total percentage the state can take from the taxpayer. It will still remain the responsibility of the legislature, as it is now, to determine how that money is used. But we will know how much we have to spend and our taxes will not continue to spiral. Again, as with the funds for the Ecology Corps pay raises, we can compete effectively for growth funds.

I am supporting Proposition 1 as a California tax payer and as director of the Department of Conservation because the plan represents a sound approach to the funding of government.

After you study Proposition 1 you may, of course, arrive at a different conclusion. All I would ask is that you arrive at that decision on the basis of the facts.

Ray B Hunter



Two are honored - Fire Prevention Aides Mary Wilson and Dianne Quast of the Santa Clara Ranger Unit were recently honored by Assemblyman Richard D. Hayden who presented them with his Commendation for Outstanding Achievement. Fred Logan (center), administrative assistant to Assemblyman Hayden, presents commendations to Miss Wilson (right) and Nadine Robin, accepting for Miss Quast. Ranger Ross Dunwoody is in the background.

New assignment

Gatien named staff counsel

Sacramento--Ralph Gatien has joined the Department of Conservation as staff counsel on a training assignment from the Department of Water Resources.

The assignment began October 1, and will continue to June 30, 1974. His assignment, by the nature of the training assignment plan, will then either terminate or be extended for 24 months.

Gatien, married and the father of two girls, will be under the general direction of Deputy Director Ed Ehlers. He will serve as an administrative adviser to the director and the deputy director, represent the department before legislative bodies and to do legal research and litigation for the department.

Sheep ranch

Firefighter goes to New Zealand

San Antone--Gregg Winovich, seasonal firefighter with the Santa Clara Ranger Unit, has been selected by the International Collaboration of Farmers, an affiliate of the California Farm Bureau Federation, to spend a year on a sheep ranch in New Zealand.

Winovich, an agricultural science major at Modesto Junior College, plans to be a teacher of agriculture.

CDF protects Orange Airport

By Carl M. Wolf

Fire Captain Specialist

Orange Co.--Under a cooperative agreement with the County of Orange, the Division of Forestry provides crash, fire, and rescue protection to the Orange County Airport, the second busiest airport in the United States.

With 608,000 takeoffs and landings, plus 1,300,000 passengers last year, the airport is second only in traffic to O'Hare Airport in Chicago.

Thirty-five CDF employees stationed at Station 27, man two specially constructed crash trucks, a fire engine, a rescue unit, and a motorized 15-ton crane.

From instructing airline stewardesses in fire-control techniques to providing protection to the President of the United States, when landing in Air Force One, the men have some unique assignments.

A recent inspection by a team of examiners from the Federal Aviation Agency passed the men and equipment of the CDF's Station 27 with "flying" colors.

Protecting aircraft of all sizes from the large commercial DC-9's to the small piper cubs, Station 27 also provides protection to a large portion of the Irvine industrial complex as well as areas near Costa Mesa and Newport Beach.

Last year the men responded to 130 alerts and took action on 20 crashes.

It's yesterday once more....



First fire truck - Taken by Riverside Ranger Charles VanFleet, this 40-year-old photograph shows the first Division of Forestry fire truck, a Moreland, carrying license number E 6601. The crew on board came from International Park Camp near Beaumont. However, the men were only on board for the photo. They were never transported like that. Besides, where could anyone find a crew that large today.

Multimedia presentation

Corpsmen give campfire show at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park

By Terry Bennett

Big Sur--Corpsmen Richard Burnett and Dan Anderson made a multimedia campfire presentation recently to visitors at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park.

The presentation consisted of leading the visitors in singing a number of folk and contemporary songs, giving a lecture with slides on a variety of bird life in the park, followed by a bird walk the morning after to identify many of the birds mentioned in the lecture.

The evening campfire presentations in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park are normally conducted on a regular basis by a state park ranger but Burnett and Anderson offered to devise a completely new program on their own time.

For the Birds

The two corpsmen spent about two weeks in preparation. Burnett drew on his previous college studies and long-time interest in ornithology (the study of birds) to construct a lecture on bird recognition. He used the Peterson System of identifying birds, which not only employs markings, color, and size, but also uses the bird's location and what it is doing to help identify it.

He covered many birds native to the area, ranging from the more common Stellar's Blue Jay and Scrub Jay to owls strong enough to kill people intruding on their nests.

The next day's bird walk had

the best attendance of any held in Big Sur State Park.

Burnett hopes to professionally enter the field of fish and game management through the Department of Fish and Game.

Sing along

Burnett's attentive audience was due in large part to the neighbor-to-neighbor introductions and campfire singing that preceded his lecture. That portion of the campfire program was led by Corpsman Dan Anderson.

Anderson, a talented musician, sang and took the crowd through old favorites such as *Please Release Me* and *The House of the Rising Sun*, and popular contemporaries such as *Snoopy and the Red Baron*.

Singing along was made easier for the audience due to slides made by Anderson that projected the lyrics for all to see.

Anderson, who has his class one, two, and three driver's licenses, hopes to join the Division of Forestry as a Heavy Equipment Operator. He is also licensed to install smog control devices.

Presently, he is driving a small caterpillar at the Molera spike camp as well as the regular crew bus.

Anderson expressed the hope that he could some day become a student at the Ione Fire Academy to take advantage of the specialized training in heavy equipment offered by CDF.



YOUR STATE JOB

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Labor bills hailed

Organized labor has praised Governor Reagan for signing into law a group of labor-supported bills. They will increase permanent and temporary disability benefits under Workmen's Compensation to \$119 per week, death benefits to \$40,000 for a surviving widow and to \$45,000 for a widow with one or more dependents; and increase unemployment compensation to \$90 per week.

All of this legislation, of course, affects the state as an employer and will apply to state employees.

John F. Henning, head of the state AFL-CIO, said of Governor Reagan in commenting on the legislation, "We praise him for his achievement in the fields of workmen's compensation, unemployment and disability insurance.

Of the improvements in worker protection during the Reagan administration, Henning said:

"No governor -- Republican or Democrat -- in the history of the state has ever done anything like that."

Governor appeals to court

Governor Reagan has taken his fight in favor of granting the full amount of state employees' salary increases to the California Supreme Court. At his request, Attorney General Evelle Younger presented the following letter to the high court:

"It is somewhat unusual for me to express my views directly to this Honorable Court. Yet I feel that the importance of this issue -- both in terms of the legitimate needs of state employees and in terms of maintaining the proper relationship between the state and federal government -- requires such communication.

"I urgently request the court to permit us to pay the employees of the State of California the salary increases authorized by the Budget Act of 1973.

"The only thing standing in the way of our civil service employees receiving the pay increase they so rightly deserve and critically need is the President's Cost of Living Council. Without specific authorization from Congress, this council has unlawfully used its regulatory and rule-making powers to prevent a sovereign

Continued on page 5

Unused sick leave will count for retirement

Governor Reagan has signed into law Senate Bill 9 (Harmer) which will give state employees credit for one extra day toward retirement for each day of unused sick leave. The measure will affect employees retiring after January 1, 1974.

Readers of *Your State Job* sent the governor many letters in favor of counting unused sick leave toward retirement. SB 9 also was one of the few employee benefit bills passed by the legislature which did not risk a challenge by the Cost of Living Council.

SB 9 was sponsored by the California State Employees Association and was supported by the Board of Administration of the Public Employees Retirement System. It is consistent with the Federal Civil Service Retirement system which gives credit on retirement for unused sick leave.

Governor Reagan also has signed SB 1461 (Collier), another bill sponsored by the CSEA. The measure requires that unexpended 1973 salary funds must be placed in a special Salary Increase Fund.

Several other important pieces of employee benefit legislation were vetoed by the governor in view of the fact that omnibus legislation will be submitted to the legislature early next year, as explained in the preceding story.

TEC concept progresses

The State Personnel Board has completed its hearings on the Cresap, McCormick and Paget report on the state's pay and benefits system. Its findings and recommendations now will be forwarded to James G. Stearns, secretary for Agriculture and Services and Governor Reagan's representative for employee relations.

CMP recommended that the state adopt a total approach to compensation, considering pay and benefits as parts of an overall package. The objective is an equitable and well-rounded program for state employees.

The private consulting firm says the state "should use the Total Equivalent Compensation

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Personnel transactions

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION Personnel

Promotions--Gloria Deroo to Per. Assist. I; Joanne Castle to Per. Assist. I; Debbie Weis to Per. Assist. I; Madeline Campbell to Per. Assist. I; Liesel Fakunding to Per. Assist. II; Ruth Shane to Per. Assist. II; Kim Masunaga to Per. Assist. II.
Appointments--Evelyn Hom, Steno I; John L. Kozusko, Jr. Staff Analyst.

Separations--Jennifer Lawson, Steno I.

Budgets and Systems

Appointments--Cindy Cheechoz, Steno II; Pat Bernard, Assist. Data Proc. Sys. Analyst.
Promotions--Robert Krause, Asso. Budget Analyst.

DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

Transfers--Perry Amimoto, Sr. Eng. Geol. from Div. Res. Con. to CDMG, Sac. Dist.; Tom Gay, Sr. Geol. from Pro. Grp. Hdqs. to Dist. Geol., Sac. Dist.; John Burnett, Asso. Geol. from Pro. Grp. Hdqs. to Sac. Dist.; Robert Streitz, Asso. Geol. from Sac. Dist. to Pro. Grp. Hdqs.

Promotions--Charles Armstrong, SF, to Asst. Geol.; Yvor Smither, Hdqs., to Asst. Geol.; Richard Knox, SF, to Asst. Geol.; Elizabeth Lindgren, LA, to Geol. Draftsman; Rich Boylan, Hdqs. to Geol. Draftsman; Robert Switzer, SF, to Geol. Draftsman.

Appointments--Robert L. Hill, Jr. Geol., LA; Scarlet LaRue, Student Asst., SF.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY Sacramento Headquarters

25-Year Award--Larry Richey

Appointments--Susan Hoffman, TAU Graduate Student Assist.

Retirements--Hubert Blankenship, Hvy. Equip. Mech.

Transfers--Conrad Wills, Hvy. Equip. Mech. to San Diego RU

North Coast District

Transfers--HFEO John W. Phillips to Lake-Napa RU.

Promotions--FC Frederick I. Nelson to FC Foreman, San Mateo-Santa Cruz RU; Rickey W. Harding to FC.

Appointments--Frederick I. Nelson, FC Foreman.

Separations--Robert G. Fiora, HFEO.

South Sierra District

Transfers--Civ. Eng. Asso. Guadalupe Perez to Morena Con. Camp; FR II Ivan A. Phillips from Morena Con. Camp to Inyo Ecology Center; FC Danny K. Nichols to Fresno RU; FC Foreman James H. Sharkey to Sierra Con. Training Center; FAE Keith E. Young to Fresno RU.

Promotions--Gerald R. Carder to FC, Tulare RU; Charles C. McDowell to FC, Tuolumne-Calaveras RU; James R. McGee to FC, Tuolumne-Calaveras RU.

Appointments--Steven K. Sunderland, Doyle K. Seher, Gregory K. Belemjian, All Fireman to Fresno RU; FAE Patrick A. Mahaffey, Fresno RU;

FAE William G. Davis and Larry D. Conwell, Tuolumne-Calaveras RU.

Separations--F. Ronald K. Flewelling.

Leave of Absence--FC Aid Richard D. Guzman.

Sierra Cascade District

Transfers--FC Frederick J. Haverland to Placer RU; FC J. Stanley Barnhart to Tehama-Glenn RU.

Promotions--Robert J. Merry to FAE.

Appointments--FAE Larry E. Turpin; FAE Terry Mackey.

25-Year Awards--SFR I Ralph R. Jenkins.

Southern California District

Transfers--C. D. Thompson to Orange RU; W. J. Smiley to San Diego RU; Grace Nelson to Riverside RU; R. Elaine Hughs to Riverside RU; and J. C. Carter to Riverside RU.

Promotions--FC Christopher A. Hinck, Jr., San Diego RU, to Fresno-Kings RU; FC Donald H. Ferguson, San Diego RU to Lake-Napa RU; J. M. Palmer to FC; R. D. Newport to FC; E. R. Griggs to FAE; J. W. Kirstin to

FAE; R. G. Landa to FAE; P. L. Smith to FAE; D. S. Young to FAE; W. R. Barnes Jr. to FAE; T. M. Harris to FAE; W. D. Whitlock FAE; D. R. Witham to FAE; D. P. Chester III to FAE; J. L. Hunter to FC; and L. M. Linker to FC; Wm. R. Downing from LT to Fresno-Kings RU.

Appointments--J. S. Barron to F; M. W. Dowd to F; J. M. Fino to F; J. L. Torres to F; R. B. Vanderhyde to F; L. E. Daniel TAU HFEO; Jimmie Kopriva Steno II; Janice Sanzone Steno II; D. K. Saxby to F.

Separations--D. H. Cowardin FC; W. L. Allen FAE; G. W. Ribeau FAE; L. J. Keast FAE.

25-Year Awards--SFR II John B. Thurman.

Central Coast District

Transfers--Danny K. Nichols to Dist. IV; Miner E. Cole to Dist. I.

Promotions--James S. McGee to FC; Frederick I. Nelson to FCF; Russell A. Borelli to FC; Larry D. Boal, Jr. to FCF; Tommy R. Kinard to FCF; A. D. Hayes to FCF.

Appointments--FAE Dale E. Strobbridge, Santa Clara RU; Fmn. John C. Gibson, Santa Clara RU.

Separations--Lois E. Geissinger, Accountant I.

25-Year Awards--SFR I Maurice L. Davis.

DIVISION OF OIL AND GAS

Separations--Student Assist. Walter Palen and Verlyn Holt.

EXAMINATION CALENDAR

Class	Final Filing Date	Exam Date
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Division of Forestry

Fire Control Aid	11/9	
Fire Apparatus Engineer	11/9	2/1
Forestry Cook I (District I, II)	11/9	

Division of Oil and Gas

No examinations

Division of Mines and Geology

No examinations

Executive and Management Services

No examinations

No other examinations have been scheduled with a final filing date of November 1, 1973 or later. Please do not submit applications for the examinations listed above until the examination bulletin has been released.

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Ray B. Hunter, director of Conservation; Edward D. Ehlers, deputy director; Gerald E. Newton, assistant director for public affairs; Jack O'Neal, information officer and editor; Terry Bennett and Bill Welty, public affairs assistants.

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Molera spike camp is small and mobile

By Terry Bennett

Big Sur--Molera spike camp, located in Julia Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, is an extension of the Los Osos Ecology Center near San Luis Obispo.

Spike camps handle small contracts and fire-prevention work located too far from the center to make commuting economical or practical.

Spike camps have usually been one of the sought-after assignments by ecology corpsmen. While superior responsibility and work habits must be demonstrated to receive such assignments, the rewards of spike camp duty make it well worthwhile.

Smaller crews

Smaller crews allow for more individuality and a chance to work out solutions to problems in the field as they arise. Molera has a population of about 17 corpsmen.

Members of Molera spike camp have worked on a variety of assignments since the spike camp's inception in September of 1972. They have constructed a fence line around park boundaries and done revegetation work in burned areas.

In expectation of the severe 1972 winter at Big Sur, the corpsmen worked on pre-flood defense, which included building sand bag barriers. During and after the heavy rains of December, January, and February, they worked on clean-up and post-flood control.

Dual purpose

"Everybody here's a dual purpose man," said spike camp foreman Bob Turney. "We all do more than one thing."

Particular attractions held by Molera are its location in the natural beauty of the Big Sur area and the corpsmen's chance to interact with campers and park visitors.

Attention has been drawn to the Molera spike camp with the recent tragedy of losing corpsman Dan Hime on the Logwood fire in the Big Sur area in August.

The spirit at Molera was high prior to this tragedy and remains so even after losing one of their members. Turney, their foreman, and his wife live in camp with the corpsmen and definitely feel themselves a part of this tightly knit group.

Firefighting

In addition to their contract work, fire fighting activity at this

spike camp has been high this fire season. Spike camps are small, mobile groups that are often used for initial attack on fires or that are left to guard the home fort while whole ecology centers, conservation camps, and ranger units roll on the big fires some distance away.

The Molera crew participates in a physical fitness program as a part of their fire training. As a group they hike two to three miles daily. On their own, each individual pursues whatever additional exercise he feels necessary to maintain optimum mental and physical condition.

No engine

Horses used for rescue

By Carl M. Wolf

Fire Captain Specialist

Laguna Hills--Recently, the CDF crew at Orange County's Schedule A station here had occasion to visit the past.

Responding to a rescue call in nearby Laguna Canyon, the crew arrived at the scene in their expensive fire engine, prepared to easily handle the emergency, except for one small detail.

A young lady, while riding the horse trails in upper Laguna Canyon, had been thrown from her horse, and had been injured. There was approximately 1-1/2 miles of steep terrain between her and the men who could help.

Fire Captain Jack Story, with Captain Lino Lopez (who had also arrived at the scene) checked their equipment, discussed the situation and arrived at a swift conclusion.

They left their fire engine behind and mounted two, time-proven modes of transportation...horses.

Actually, incidents such as these prove that we all must be ready to improvise and use our heads...don't establish set patterns. In an emergency, line supervisors must be imaginative, and do their jobs as safely and swiftly as practical.

The young lady was injured seriously, and time was of the essence. It was later determined that she had suffered back, head, and neck injuries.

A Marine Corps helicopter had been dispatched, but Captains Story and Lopez were able to render valuable first aid and treat the young lady for shock.



Corpsmen practice yoga - With the help of two corpsmen who are devotees of yoga, Art Jaseau, physical fitness coordinator for the Central Coast District, conducts an impromptu demonstration of how yoga serves as the basis of calisthenics and flexibility exercises. Looking on are members of the Molera spike camp at their Big Sur location.

Ventura chief praises forestry

Sacramento--The "immediate response and more than cooperative efforts of the California Division of Forestry" have been cited as major reasons for containment of recent major fires in Ventura County.

S. E. Masson, county fire chief, wrote the state forester:

"Commencing at (8:33 a.m.) on Wednesday, September 26, 1973, our department was faced with a siege of emergencies that taxed our abilities and resources to the maximum.

"The immediate response and more than cooperative efforts of the California Division of Forestry personnel were a major contribution in the containment of the fire and the holding of fire losses to a minimum."

TEC concept....

From page 3

(TEC) concept in surveys to obtain guidelines as to appropriate limits of total compensation costs."

CMP points out that the state's current piecemeal system has resulted in an unbalanced package of benefits and in substantial lagging in certain important benefit areas.

Plans are underway by Secretary Stearns to establish a project organization to develop the basic CMP recommendations into omnibus legislation to be presented early in 1974.

Governor appeals....

From page 3

state from implementing a state statute. This action certainly appears unconstitutional. The council lacks jurisdiction in this case and should be told so.

"The Economic Stabilization Act of 1970 does not authorize the regulation of state employees' salaries. And even if it did, there would be a serious question as to whether or not Congress has the constitutional power to so regulate these internal affairs of a sovereign state.

"The law of California is clear. As a result of salary studies requested by me, the State Personnel Board recommended and I wholeheartedly approved a budget bill which included a pay increase for all civil service state employees which averaged 12.9 percent, effective July 1, 1973. The legislature agreed with this proposal and I signed AB 110, the 1973 State Budget Act, which is Chapter 129 of the Statutes of 1973.

"The State of California is now and always has been ready and eager to implement this statute. The monies illegally restricted by the Council have been placed in trust, pending this Court's action, for one purpose only -- to pay already authorized salary increases.

"This issue is of great public importance and deserves a prompt resolution. I trust that it agrees."

First trophy

Riverside wins Sigsbee drill

Riverside--Both Riverside and Orange Ranger Units competed in the first annual Sigsbee Drill, held here Sept. 8. Riverside was winner of the first perpetual trophy.

The Sigsbee Drill, which is revolutionary in fire training, involves 24 tasks--practically everything a fireman encounters on a structural fire response. Among the steps performed by the three-man teams were: remove roof ladder to "safe" place; remove extension ladder; put on air packs (not hooked up); tie equipment for raising; and return all equipment to vehicle.

The idea of the inter-ranger unit competition was that of CDF/Riverside County Fire Department's Indio West Battalion Chief Dick Harris, a former Orange County Captain and fellow employe of Captain Ken Sigsbee, "father" of the drill.

Three teams

The competition was conducted with three teams representing each unit--two volunteer and one paid. The Riverside Ranger Unit was represented by the Palm Desert and LaQuinta Volunteer Fire Companies and the paid team of Riverside County Fire Department's Indio Station. Orange Ranger Unit entrants were Doheny and Red Hill Volunteer Companies, with Orange headquarters being the paid team.

All competition was against the stop watch, with the winner decided by the unit with the lowest total time in completing the drill. All participants wore full protective clothing and each task was closely scrutinized for safety infractions by three judges. A five second penalty was assessed for each infraction.

Total time

Final total times were: Riverside 18:02 and Orange 20:55. The fastest individual team time went to the Doheny volunteers of 5:10.

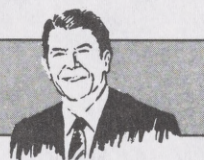
Prior to the trophy competition, the Palm Desert and Indio Fire Companies presented a demonstration drill by the female members of the two volunteer companies. The times for the girls' teams were: Palm Desert 7:54 and Indio 9:14.

Judges for the event were: Assistant Deputy State Forester Joe Springer and Rangers Dick Ernest and Earl Young of the Southern California District Headquarters.



In the air - Riverside Ranger Unit's Richard Harris is "up in the air" over winning the first annual Sigsbee Drill Trophy. Harris is being "held up" by members of the girls' teams, Palm Desert and Indio Volunteer Fire Companies. Team members are Chris Bazinet, Teri McClellan, Monica Peterson, Dorothy Dickson, Linda Hovey and Ann Wyman.

Ask the Governor



Dear Governor:

Knowing damn well the pay board would hassle about the pay raise, why did you and everyone else involved wait until July to bring the awareness of the raise to the pay board?

Why didn't someone let them know a few months in advance about the raise, percentage, etc., so this mess could be ironed out before July 31st?

Was it because nobody really cared? Incompetence?

Shelton C. Asher
Sacramento

Dear Mr. Asher:

Your recent letter concerning the timing of notification of the Federal Cost of Living Council about the state civil service salary increases I'm sure is of interest to many state employees.

Specifically you inquired why the federal government wasn't notified well in advance of the July 1, 1973 salary increases adopted by the State Personnel Board. Notification well in advance of State Personnel Board action was both impossible and useless under procedural requirements of the Cost of Living Council.

The State Personnel Board was not able to act on salary increases until the funds were appropriated by the legislature and approved by me. This did not occur until late June, only a few days before the State Personnel Board took action on July 2, 1973.

As you may not be aware, the federal government requires very specific and detailed information on a salary increase program. It also requires that the money be available (legally appropriated). This information, including the exact amount of the increases provided, could not be determined until the State Personnel Board acted on the budget bill.

The state is required under federal procedures to notify the Cost of Living Council within 10 days following a salary action that appears to exceed their guidelines. Notification was made to the Cost of Living Council promptly. This was not done because we felt the guidelines were exceeded, but because we were challenged.

In summary, the federal government was notified promptly following action by the State Personnel Board. Any attempt to provide the type of data required by the Cost of Living Council in advance of the State Personnel Board action would have resulted in inaccurate and incomplete information being provided to the Cost of Living Council and would not have expedited their review.

We still believe the increases approved by the State Personnel Board are fully warranted, and we plan to pursue all avenues of appeal to have the full increases restored as soon as possible. I have recently signed into law a bill reserving this money.

Thank you for your interest.

Ronald Reagan
Governor

Student watchers

Lookout season nears close

By William Welty

Lookout Jeanne Edwards nursed her glass of hot cocoa and watched the lights of Sonoma County flicker some 4400 feet below. Her summer is just about over, fire season ends soon, and her lookout tower on top of Mt. Saint Helena will be closed for the winter.

"Sonoma County has been asbestos county this summer," she said. "Not too much fire action."

Jeanne and her former classmate Diane Vaughan have been splitting the three-days-on, three-days-off lookout schedule for the past five months.

Although it was Diane's first year, Jeanne has been watching fires for the past five summers. "I'd like to now get into fire control," she said. "Women have a place in CDF," she added, "even as fire fighters."

Another classmate

Across Lake Berryessa from Mt. Saint Helena, another of Jeanne's classmates watches over Napa County. Karen Mellinger, a physical education major at Pacific Union College and the first female to have ever rappelled off El Capitan in the Yosemite Valley, admits that the work as a forestry lookout can be boring.

"But what other employer will pay \$450 a month and charge you only a monthly rent of \$1.50 for a home overlooking some of California's most panoramic country?" she said.

Nancy Alquist, yet another classmate from Junion Pacific College, has been sharing the tower with Karen. With the fire season drawing to a close, Nancy finds herself back in school and working part-time at the college's library in addition to working her full shifts at the tower.

Karen also works for the college as secretary for the chairman of the physical education department.

All of the girls, except for Diane, are planning to return next summer to act as the "eyes" for the dispatchers manning the fire stations at the foot of the mountains. Lookouts keep close watch over all lands within their field of vision and report any signs of fire. Jeanne was the first person to alert forestry of the beginnings of the Barkerville fire, a most destructive fire in the north this summer.